

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 368 720

SP 035 169

AUTHOR Freeman, Ellen W.; Rickels, Karl
TITLE Early Childbearing: Perspectives of Black Adolescents on Pregnancy, Abortion, and Contraception. Sage Library of Social Research 192.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-8039-5283-X
PUB DATE 93
NOTE 216p.
AVAILABLE FROM SAGE Publications, Inc., 2455 Teller Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320 (clothbound: ISBN-0-8039-5282-1; paperback: ISBN-0-8039-5283-X).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Abortions; Adolescents; *Black Students; Decision Making; Disadvantaged Youth; Females; Health Education; High Schools; High School Students; Junior High Schools; Junior High School Students; Knowledge Level; Males; *Pregnant Students; *Student Attitudes; *Student Behavior; *Student Characteristics; Unwed Mothers; Urban Demography
IDENTIFIERS *African Americans; University of Pennsylvania

ABSTRACT

This book reports on the Penn Study of Teenage Pregnancy, which examined issues surrounding adolescent pregnancy, abortion, and childbearing. Participants were African-American teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 from disadvantaged urban backgrounds. Based on individual interviews over 2 years in the early 1980s, the study provided details about the teenagers' attitudes, perceptions and decisions; investigated their background characteristics, sexual knowledge, and behavior; examined feelings about pregnancy; compared adolescents who terminated a first pregnancy to those who delivered; and identified the behavioral, psychological and social differences of matched never-pregnant teens. The nine chapters in the volume are titled as follows: (1) "Studying the Problem of Teenage Pregnancy"; (2) "Risking Pregnancy: Avoidance, Ignorance, and Delay of Contraceptive Use"; (3) "Wanting Pregnancy: Teenagers' Attitudes, Goals, and Perceived Support"; (4) "Choosing Abortion or Delivery: Influences and Outcomes"; (5) "Avoiding Childbearing: Teenagers Who Terminated a First Pregnancy Compared to Never-Pregnant Peers"; (6) "Pregnancies After Study Enrollment: 'Pregnant Because They Are Different or Different Because They Are Pregnant?'; (7) "Family Involvement: Preventing Early Teenage Childbearing"; (8) "Male Teenagers and Contraception"; and (9) "Conclusions and Recommendations." Six appendices provide information on measurement instruments and assessment points in the study; statistical procedures used; summary of theoretical framework with main variables for analysis; background characteristics of the sample at enrollment (percent distribution); statistical tables; and an initial interview questionnaire. The bibliography includes approximately 200 titles. (LL)